AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

1. Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 5 as follows:

Fig. 2 depicts a block diagram of an exemplary server 108 such as depicted in Fig. 1. The server 108 includes a manager agent 202 operatively connected to a plurality of service agents, such as service agents 204, 206, and 208, via a ~~buss~~ bus 232. Each agent 202, 204, 206, and 208 includes at least one memory (not shown) such as a ROM or RAM, and at least one processor (not shown) operative for executing programs stored in the memory, including applications for initiating and/or controlling connections to the network 110, processing requests for services/resources submitted by the clients 102, 104, and 106, and providing requested services/resources to the clients 102, 104, and 106.

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2. Please delete the Abstract and replace it with the following

revised Abstract:

In a technique for authenticating a user submitting a service request from a client to a server, a service agent on the server receives the service request and submits an authentication request to a manager agent. If the user is successfully authenticated, the manager agent transmits a message to the service agent including user authentication information and stores a time-out value establishing a predetermined time period. The service agent stores the user authentication information and shares it with a distributed application which provides the requested service to the user. The manager agent determines whether the predetermined time period has been exceeded before another service request is received at the service agent, and if not then the service agent attempts to authenticate the user using the stored authentication information. Otherwise, the service agent submits another authentication request to the manager agent to authenticate the user.